

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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P R 211447Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 466

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONGEN ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6517

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, TU, US

SUBJECT: PLO DELEGATION LEAVES ANKARA WITHOUT AGREEMENT
ON OPENING OFFICE

REF: ANKARA 6409 (NOTAL)

1. PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) DELEGATION HEADED BY
"FOREIGN MINISTER" QADDOUMI (REFTEL) LEFT ANKARA AUGUST 20
WITHOUT HAVING REACHED AGREEMENT WITH GOT FOR THE OPENING OF A
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PLO OFFICE IN ANKARA, DESPITE THE PLO'S PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED INTER-

EST IN DOING SO.

2. THE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON OPENING OF AN OFFICE PROMPTED PRESS SPECULATION THAT PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL HAD REFUSED PERMISSION ON GROUNDS THAT THE PLO HAD DECLINED TO OPEN A SIMILAR OFFICE IN THE TURKISH ZONE OF CYPRUS. THIS SPECULATION WAS GIVEN SOME WEIGHT WHEN, IN PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 20, QADDOUMI SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT THE PLO HAD ALREADY OPENED ONE OFFICE IN CYPRUS AND THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR THE COUNTRY (EXCERPTS FROM PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED IN SEPTTEL). PRESS ALSO SPECULATES THAT THERE WAS DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN DEMIREL AND FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL, THE LATTER OF WHOM HAS PERSONALLY PUSHED THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND WITH THE PLO.

3. THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION GIVEN US BY A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WAS THAT THE QUESTION OF OPENING AN OFFICE WAS NOT SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND THAT THE QUESTION HAD BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR DECISION AT A LATER DATE. IN PRINCIPLE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, TURKEY WAS NOT RPT NOT OPPOSED TO THE OPENING OF AN OFFICE "SOMETIME".

4. ISRAELI EMBASSY POLOF TOLD US HE HAD INFORMATION FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT DEMIREL WAS ANGRY WITH CAGLAYANGIL FOR BRINGING THE PLO REPRESENTATIVES TO TURKEY FOR A VISIT LONGER THAN THE TWO DAYS ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED. HE SAID HIS EMBASSY WAS CONVINCED THAT DEMIREL PERSONALLY HAD MADE A DECISION AGAINST ALLOWING THE OPENING OF A PLO OFFICE BECAUSE OF THE REPERCUSSIONS SUCH AN ACTION WOULD HAVE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TWO MONTHS AGO HAD WARNED DEMIREL THAT IF THE PLO OPENED AN OFFICE IN ANKARA, THE PRO-ISRAEL LOBBY IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BECOME STRONGLY ANTI-TURKISH. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAD PROMISED THAT THE LOBBY WOULD WORK HARD FOR TURKEY OTHERWISE. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT DEMIREL WAS OPPOSED TO THE PLO'S OPENING AN OFFICE ON GROUNDS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS USE AS A BASE FOR TERRORISM, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE EASY FOR THE GOT TO PREVENT SUCH USE.
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